



Prairie Lakes Unitarian Universalist Fellowship

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FEBRUARY 2024 ENGAGE & WORSHIP SERVICE EVENTS



ENGAGE Sunday, February 4, 10AM with JoAnne Norton, *Healing With Energy and Color Therapy* For over 30 years Joanne has taught meditation and distant healing, is a massage therapist and energy bodyworker. This session will be a demonstration and workshop on how to use colors and our hands to heal ourselves and assist others to heal.



Intergenerational Worship Service Sunday, February 11, 10AM with Nicole Roost: *Chinese New Year Celebration plus, it's 2nd Sunday Potluck!*

2024 is the year of the Dragon!. Last year we wore red, used noise makers and confetti poppers, listened to traditional Chinese music, watched a dragon parade through the sanctuary, and more! We've been ringing in the Chinese New Year off and on with Nicole Roost since 2007 and it's always a memorable event!



**ENGAGE Sunday, February 18, 10AM with Dr. Paul Jeffries
"Ethical Reflections on the War in Gaza."**

This presentation will explore the ethical dimensions of the current war going on primarily in Gaza between the Israelis, Hamas, and the Palestinians. We will examine the cause of the immediate conflict but also include the wider context between Israel and the Palestinians. In trying to apply principles of justice and conflict studies, including consideration of just war theory, the presentation will engage the Unitarian Universalist Principles concerning the dignity and worth of persons (1st), justice, equity, and compassion (2nd), and the goal of a world community with peace, liberty, and justice for all (6th).



Worship Service Sunday, February 25, 10AM with Becky Feyen: *Side With Love*

We are fortunate to be part of a community that provides & combines organizations which strive to make this world a better place. Come learn about & be inspired by the UUA Side with Love campaign and the 30 Days of Love. This is not the warm fuzzy love, rather the radical love of changing our world. *"The work that we do together to*

build a world in which all are free and thriving is interrelated. When we ground our spirits, grow our skills, and act strategically for justice in deep relationship with each other and our movements, we choose to Side With Love." - UUA Side with Love Organizing Strategy Team

Moderator's Message by Becky Feyen



This month I am introducing a new Board of Directors section to our newsletter called, 'PLUUF BoD Blurb' (until a better title comes along). It occurred to me that you are not aware of what is happening behind the scenes. For example, those awesome new blinds in the back corner of the sanctuary (see photos on bottom of page 4) didn't just show up without first reviewing cost, and then finding someone to select, purchase, and install – yes, other windows will have the same blinds as soon as someone repeats the process.

I thought it would be helpful to have a quick highlight of a few topics discussed at our monthly board meeting. This new section of news from the Board will not be an extensive re-cap of all topics, nor will it include details, so feel free to ask. This will evolve as we move through the year to see what works best to keep you in the PLUUF loop. In addition, copies of Board meeting minutes are on file at PLUUF or can be emailed by request.

Unfortunately, this will be another responsibility for your amazing secretary, Robyn Davis Bartow. Your board is doing their best to keep up and keep things moving forward at Prairie Lakes and in the greater community. We are here to preserve, promote and protect Prairie Lakes UU Fellowship.



News From the Board (AKA PLUUF BoD Blurb) by Robyn Davis-Bartow

Hello PLUUFy people! Here is what's been happening behind the scenes this month:

- The board has been hard at work revising Board job descriptions and updating our outdated bylaws.
- Liz Buchanan-Beegle was presented with a bouquet and gift certificate as a special thank you for the amazing job she did serving as PLUUF Program Coordinator from 7/1/2022-12/31/2023. Thanks again, Liz!
- At-Large Rep Board member Nicole Roost has taken over responsibility for Care and Concern. Any special joys or concerns you would like to communicate, don't hesitate to reach out to Nicole nroost8250@gmail.com
- Due to unforeseen circumstances, Cheri Salzberg could use some assistance with fulfilling the rest of her term as Outdoor Facility Coordinator. If you have an able bodied hand to lend, talk with Cheri about what you can do to help keep our outdoor space ship-shape: salzbergcheri@gmail.com
- Prairie Lakes is looking ahead to fill three positions on the Board of Directors for the upcoming fiscal year. Starting July 1, 2024, we have openings for a new Moderator, Secretary and an At Large Representative. Each of these positions serve a two year term. Please let Becky Feyen, or any of the current PLUUF board members know if you are interested in serving. Come join an amazing team in guiding the future of our beloved fellowship. Becky: r.feyen@yahoo.com

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

MOMS DEMAND ACTION

When: Saturday, February 10, anytime between 9:30-11:30

Where: Mugs Coffee Shop | 307 Watson Street in Downtown Ripon

Moms Demand Action is a grassroots movement of Americans fighting for public safety measures that can protect people from gun violence. PLUUF member Pam Mumm wants to

let everyone know that volunteers are encouraged to attend a morning at Mugs coffee shop writing cards to survivors of gun violence on February 10th. Come anytime between 9:30 and 11:30 and stay for as little or as long as you'd like. It will be super casual. Feel free to bring anyone who might be interested! If you think you may want to join, please RSVP to mumm.pamela@gmail.com . While the RSVP isn't required, it's helpful for planning.



Volunteers Needed for PLUUF's April Brat Fry



April will be here before we know it! This Brat Fry will support Prairie Lakes on Saturday, April 6, 10:30 am until 3:00 pm at Webster's Marketplace 1188 W. Fond du Lac Street, Ripon. If you'd like to take a shift let us know. We will need assistance in taking orders, filling orders, collecting money, or grilling. Contact Becky at r.feyen@yahoo.com

Ripon Food Pantry This is not Traded Treasures Food Pantry, but a food pantry located at St. Catherine's of Siena church on Blossom Street. This pantry has been around since 1983 and was originally housed in the Senior Citizen Building on Watson Street. Back in the early to mid 2000's, this was the Food Pantry PLUUFers supported by participating in the annual CROP Walk. They are in need of volunteers. PLUUF is networking with both RAMA and representatives from St. Catherine's to determine specifically what their needs are. More information will be coming soon.

...and speaking of volunteering

DID YOU KNOW that not only did PLUUF Moderator Becky Feyen volunteer for the drive thru boxed dinner meal at the First Congregational Church (see next page) but also represented Prairie Lakes by reading the invocation at the Jan. Ripon City Council meeting? Both events were inspired by Prairie Lakes involvement with RAMA (Ripon Area Ministerial Association).



Five Ripon Area Churches Are Providing FREE Meals Every Tuesday: Would You Like to Volunteer?

A group of Ripon churches have banded together to feed the public one night per week and the practice is gaining traction and attention.

Five churches each will take a Tuesday and provide a free meal to all who need a meal or want to be a part of church fellowship, according to the Rev. Jeffrey Dodson of First Congregational Church of Ripon. There are members of the community who, for whatever reasons, can't cook for themselves and need a meal prepared for them. That's where the Tuesday meals come into the picture, Dodson said.



Sub sandwiches were made and boxed by volunteers at the First Congregational Church

On Tuesday, January 23, Becky Feyen volunteered for the First Congregational Church drive thru boxed dinner meal. As a first time volunteer she observed food prep and the packing of the meals. She took an active role as the cars started to roll in. Volunteers handed out the boxes of food, toilet paper, baked goods and even socks!



Becky Feyen (left) volunteering at the drive thru boxed dinner meal at the First Congregational Church

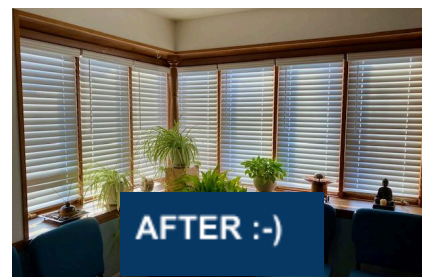
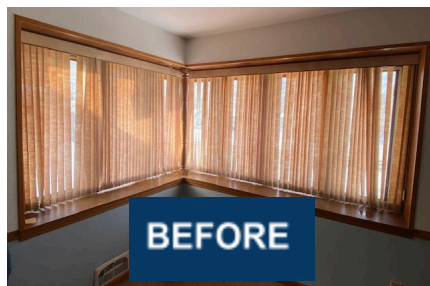
**Each Tuesday, those looking for a meal can visit the participating church and get fed.
Would YOU like to volunteer?**

Below is the list of churches and schedule:

- 1st Tues. 5:00-6PM Our Saviour's United Church of Christ, 343 Scott St, Ripon. 920-748-2544 | Fellowship Hall - Elevator Accessible
- 2nd Tues. 5:00-6PM Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church, 430 W. Griswald, Ripon. 920-748-5433 | Fellowship Hall
- 3rd Tues. 5:00-6pm Immanuel United Methodist Church, 401 W. Fond du Lac St. 920-748-6695 Fellowship Hall | Elevator Accessible
- 4th Tues. 5:30-6PM First Congregational Church of Ripon, 220 Ransom St., Ripon. 920-748-5898 | Drive Thru Boxed Dinner, Enter on Ransom St.
- 5th Tues 5:00-6PM St. Catherine of Siena Catholic Church, 228 East Blossom St.,

If you know of individuals or families in need, please let them know free meals are available. If you would like to volunteer to help feed the community contact Tanya at tanyapapermaker@gmail.com for more information.

Thank you to Harold Salzberg for installing the new blinds in the sanctuary!



ENGAGE Sunday, March 3, with Kat Griffith *US Immigration and Asylum* by Kat Griffith



Immigration is one of our most potent and politically fraught issues. This updated presentation on US immigration and asylum has three parts:

1. I will present a myth-busting look at border statistics since the 1990s, challenging much of the current narrative about migration.
2. I'll share the stories of several asylum seekers and you will see personal photos of a migrant camp, a tent court and deportation flight at the southern border.
3. We will look at current realities on the ground and in our political discourse on the subject.

The presentation will end with a discussion of how to have productive conversations on this difficult topic with people of a range of political persuasions.

I am offering this presentation everywhere I can because of my recent experience of having it very warmly received by a politically mixed audience. I realized that if I could help bring the facts to more people and reduce the potency of this issue as a weapon of fear, that might be the most civically useful thing I could do in this coming year. I fear that an authoritarian may ride this issue to the White House and I'd like to do my part to help prevent that. I will also have a handout with tips and useful facts for those who wish to engage with moderates and conservatives on the issue.

RE/YOUTH GROUP by Tanya Schwartz-Roeper



On 1/14 the kids learned sign language that included animal signs, signs to a song and more. In the photo, they are signing "I Love You." We talked about how being welcoming, kind, and accepting to people who are hard-of hearing or deaf aligns with the Unitarian Universalist 1st & 2nd Principles: "Each and every person is important" and "All people should be treated fairly and kindly. We also talked about how learning sign language aligns with the UU 3rd Principle: "We should accept one another and

keep on learning together."

Our 1/28 RE/Youth Group session included a brief lesson on February's Black History Month. Black History Month is a time to honor the contributions and legacy of African Americans across U.S. history and society. The 2024 theme for Black History Month is: "**African Americans and the Arts.**" We talked about Kehinde Wiley the Portrait Painter who painted the portrait of former president Barack Obama; the Musician Alicia Keys; ballet dancer Misty Danielle Copeland; poet Amanda Gorman; actor Denzel Washington and Director Spike Lee. The lesson concluded with a hand made paper making craft.





Remembering Elisabeth Beuthin

Elisabeth served in the US Army from 1963-1966 in San Pedro, CA. She met her husband of 56 years, Larry, at the Long Beach Naval Station where he was serving. They resided happily together in Fairwater for over 50 years.

Elisabeth was a member of the Legion and Legion Auxiliary Post 378 for over 50 years, serving as Legion Auxiliary President for many years. She was also a member of Prairie Lakes Unitarian Universalist Fellowship in Ripon for 22 years!

Elisabeth loved to read and encouraged the love of reading in her children as well as her grandchildren by gifting books and creating personalized stories for them. She enjoyed watching Sci-Fi, Crime Dramas, and BBC programming and is solely responsible for her children's love of Dr. Who.

Elisabeth's Celebration of Life event took place on Saturday, January 27. Becky Feyen and Tanya Schwartz-Roeper assisted the family. Thank you to the PLUUF members who attended the event. For those of you who could not attend, but submitted kind words, your words were read during the "Sharing of Remembrances of Elisabeth" segment of the program.

Shared UU Values

As mentioned in the January newsletter, the UUA is revising their bylaws and below are the statements that describe the 6 values that are depicted in the new logo. If approved, the values below will replace our current 7 principles:



Interdependence: We honor the interdependent web of all existence.

With reverence for the great web of life and with humility, we acknowledge our place in it.

We covenant to protect Earth and all beings from exploitation. We will create and nurture sustainable relationships of care and respect, mutuality and justice. We will work to repair harm and damaged relationships.

Pluralism: We celebrate that we are all sacred beings, diverse in culture, experience, and theology.

We covenant to learn from one another in our free and responsible search for truth and meaning. We embrace our differences and commonalities with Love, curiosity, and respect.

Justice: We work to be diverse multicultural Beloved Communities where all thrive.

We covenant to dismantle racism and all forms of systemic oppression. We support the use of inclusive democratic processes to make decisions within our congregations, our Association, and society at large.

Transformation: We adapt to the changing world.

We covenant to collectively transform and grow spiritually and ethically. Openness to change is fundamental to our Unitarian and Universalist heritages, never complete and never perfect.

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Generosity: We cultivate a spirit of gratitude and hope.

We covenant to freely and compassionately share our faith, presence, and resources. Our generosity connects us to one another in relationships of interdependence and mutuality.

Equity: We declare that every person has the right to flourish with inherent dignity and worthiness.

We covenant to use our time, wisdom, attention, and money to build & sustain fully accessible & inclusive communities

In Case You Missed it in January



ENGAGE Sunday, January 7, with JoAnne Norton:

Self Healing Through Meditation Part I. Joanne Norton has been on a spiritual quest her whole life which has taken her to explore the healing arts. For over 30 years Joanne has taught meditation and distant healing, is a massage therapist and energy bodyworker. During this session, she guided the attendees on a self healing journey using meditation and energy work.



Worship Service Sunday, January 14, with Robyn Davis-Bartow: ***Embracing Change and Cultivating Inner Peace***

As the New Year unfurls, one's mind inevitably turns to change. Change in the year, change in our loved ones, change in the fellowship, change in politics, change in ourselves. The list could go on ad infinitum. But how do we face these changes? Do we resist and wish for what was? Do we stress about a future unknown? Attendees explored how different groups look at change and how cultivating inner peace can change our relationship with it. *Note: Thank you to everyone who braved subzero temps to attend this Worship Service & to everyone who brought food for a delicious potluck!*



ENGAGE Sunday, January 21, 10AM with Connie Ghinazzi: ***What I Believe, Why Am I Here***

Connie led a conversation about our beliefs and how they have led us to be a part of this UU community. The idea for this topic came out of a desire to keep ENGAGE Sundays going and to get a better understanding of why we are here.



Worship Service Sunday, January 28, 10AM with Becky Feyen: ***Creating Peace as UU's***

Peace can only come from a place of peace. UU's have a rich history committed to creating peace through the work of peacebuilding, peacemaking, and peacekeeping. We looked at each aspect of creating peace & explored how we can take action to build, make & keep peace in all human interactions. Peace be with you.